GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:762
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2008
MORE ESTABLISHMENTS UNDER EPFO
Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether only a fraction of the total work force of the country has taken the membership of Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bring more establishments under the purview of Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and the extend the reach of benefits to all eligible workforce; and

(d) the details of other schemes prevailing and formulated for the welfare of labourers of both organised and unorganised sectors and the number of labourers being benefited therefrom?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): As on 31.03.2007, the membership of the Employees' Provident Fund was 4.44 crore. The Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, subject to provisions contained in section 16, applies to every establishment, which is a factory engaged in any industry specified in Schedule I to the Act or any establishment engaged in an activity notified by the Government and employing 20 or more persons and is limited to a maximum wage ceiling of Rs. 6500/- per month.

(c): With a view to bring coverable establishments under the purview of the Act and to extend benefits to the eligible employees, all out efforts are made by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, which include launching of Special Coverage Drives, regular publicity, providing information/support through official web site, conducting seminars, workshops, etc.

(d): Details of other schemes formulated by the Ministry of Labour & Employment for the welfare of workers in both organised and unorganized sectors are furnished in the annexure.